

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4040

USNATO FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IEU, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US  
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS AFTER BREZHNEV'S SPEECH AND ON THE EVE OF  
VANCE'S ARRIVAL

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA EDITORIAL AND IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY REPEAT  
BREZHNEV'S LINE FROM TRADE UNION SPEECH OF MARCH 21, BUT ADD  
STRONGER LANGUAGE ON POSSIBLE EFFECT OF HR ISSUE UPON OTHER  
ISSUES IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND POSSIBLY VANCE TRIP.  
END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA EDITORIAL MARCH 24 DEVOTED TO EXEGESIS OF BREZHNEV'S  
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MARCH 21 TRADE UNION SPEECH. ONLY NOTEWORTHY DEPARTURE IS THAT  
PRAVDA TAKES A STRONGER LINE IN DESCRIBING EFFECTS OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS ISSUE ON OTHER (UNSPECIFIED) AREAS OF DETENTE. REFERRING  
TO THE "NOISY CAMPAIGN" BEING CONDUCTED BY CAPITALIST STATES  
AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES, PRAVDA  
SAYS THIS IS AN "ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS".  
SUCH INTERFERENCE, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "EXCLUDES THE NORMAL

DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS".

3. BOVIN WRITING IN IZVESTIYA MARCH 23 HAS SIMILAR COLUMN DEVOTED TO BREZHNEV SPEECH AND MAKES POINT AS STRONGLY AS PRAVDA THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVIET UNION AND "CANNOT BUT BE REFLECTED IN THE GENERAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THIS AND OTHER CURRENT ISSUES ARE BEING EXAMINED". BOVIN GOES ON IN NEXT SENTENCE TO REFER TO SECRETARY'S VISIT BY SAYING THAT VANCE WILL BE RECEIVED IN MOSCOW AND HIS PROPOSALS WILL BE EXAMINED, BUT, BOVIN ADDS, "ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON'S PRETENSIONS TO TEACH OTHERS HOW TO LIVE HAS ALREADY COMPLICATED THE SITUATION. AND IT (THE SITUATION) IS COMPLICATED ENOUGH WITHOUT THIS (PRETENSION)."

4. APART FROM THESE TWO ITEMS, PRESS COVERAGE OF HR ISSUE SINCE BREZHNEV'S MARCH 21 SPEECH HAS BEEN LIGHT AND LOW-KEY. USUAL POST-SPEECH REPORTS FROM AROUND WORLD PRAISE BREZHNEV AND TAKE LINE THAT HIS REMARKS ON HR AND OTHER ISSUES SHOWED CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH. MARCH 24 PRAVDA QUOTES STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN REMARKS THAT BREZHNEV "FIRMLY" EXPRESSED VIEW OF SOVIET UNION ON HR ISSUE BUT THAT HIS SPEECH DID NOT CHANGE THE CLIMATE FOR VANCE TRIP TO MOSCOW. VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS CRITICIZE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR ALLEGED HR VIOLATIONS.

5. COMMENT. CLOSELY PARALLELING EACH OTHER IN THEIR TREATMENT OF THE BREZHNEV SPEECH, PRAVDA EDITORIAL AND BOVIN PIECE APPEAR TO BE INTENDED TO GIVE THE SAME MESSAGE: THAT THE HR ISSUE CAN AFFECT OTHER UNSPECIFIED QUESTIONS. BOVIN GOES FURTHER THAN  
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PRAVDA BY SUGGESTING LINK BETWEEN THE "COMPLICATED" SITUATION CAUSED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND THE VANCE VISIT.

6. THE SUM OF THESE REFERENCES IS TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT SUSTAINED, HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES ON HUMAN RIGHTS CAN SPILL OVER AND MAKE RESOLUTION OF OTHER ISSUES MORE DIFFICULT. THEY ALSO MAKE POINT THAT BREZHNEV INTENDED TO BE TOUGH ON HR BUT "CONSTRUCTIVE" ON OTHER ISSUES IN MAKING TRADE UNION CONGRESS SPEECH. WHAT PRAVDA EDITORIAL AND BOVIN DO, IN ADDITION, IS TO INCREASE SLIGHTLY THE DEGREE OF TOUGHNESS AND STRENGTH OF IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER ISSUES OF CONTINUATION OF HR CAMPAIGN. THE SOVIETS UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE TACTICAL MOTIVES IN THIS AREA. WITH THE VANCE VISIT SO CLOSE, THEY MAY FEEL IT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE TO ATTEMPT TO INTENSIFY PRE-VISIT PRESSURE ON AMERICAN SIDE.  
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## Message Attributes

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